

NSC BRIEFING

15 October 1968

PAKISTAN

- I. The takeover of government in Pakistan by President Mirza and General Ayub last week was a smooth operation.
 - A. The Army is in complete charge and has begun to attack corruption, leftism, and anti-government activities through stringent regulations and some arrests of political leaders.
 - B. Some Leftist leaders, including Maulana Bhashani, who has a large following in East Pakistan, have been arrested. A few supporters of popular former Prime Minister Suhrawardy also have been taken into custody. He himself has not been touched but ^{is being pressured by Mirza to} has been threatened indirectly by Mirza with assassination if he does not leave the country.
- II. For the moment most of the people appear to approve the takeover. They hope it will end political hickering, improve governmental efficiency, and start the country on the road to economic improvement.
- III. Afghanistan has welcomed the event, seeing in Mirza's abrogation of the constitution another opportunity to press for the formation of a separate frontier province in West Pakistan in the area inhabited by Pathan tribal groups.
- IV. India has cautiously accepted the takeover, apparently believing that Mirza and Ayub may bring temporary stability and curb aggressive "adventures" against India.

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